

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:HARYAN:MPH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: VE, PN, CO

SUBJECT: CARL ROWAN IN CARACAS

BOGOTA FOR LUERS

FOR AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMAN FROM RYAN

1. I CALLED CARL TO INQUIRE ABOUT HIS GENERAL
IMPRESSIONS OF HIS VISIT TO CARACAS EARLIER IN THE WEEK.
HE INDICATED HE'D HAD AN INFORMATIVE BREAKFAST WITH YOU
AND THAT THE EMBASSY & USIS HAD BEEN MOST HELPFUL.

2. HIS INTERVIEW WITH PEREZ DID NOT TAKE PLACE
UNTIL VERY LATE WEDNESDAY EVENING SO HE DID NOT HAVE A
CHANCE, AS HE HAD HOPED, TO REPORT BACK TO YOU.

3. BY HIS ACCOUNT PEREZ WAS HIGHLY EMOTIONAL AND
VERY OUTSPOKEN IN HIS CRITICISM OF U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN
POLICY. HIS TWO MAJOR THEMES WERE THE ADMINISTRATION'S
FAILURE TO ACT STRONGLY ON (1) THE TRADE BILL EXCLUSION
OF VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR, AND (2) THE PANAMA CANAL.

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4. ON THE TRADE BILL, PEREZ SAID HE COULD NOT

BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT FORD COULD NOT HAVE PREVENTED
THE ANTI-VENEZUELAN ACTION IF HE HAD REALLY WANTED TO.

HE ALSO DETAILED FOR CARL ALL THAT VENEZUELA HAD DONE TO
INCREASE OIL PRODUCTION AND SHIPPING DURING THE EMBARGO.

5. PEREZ THEN TOLD OF HIS MEETING THAT AFTERNOON
WITH TORRIJOS IN WHICH THE LATTER VIVIDLY DESCRIBED U.S.
TROOPS IN THE CANAL ZONE TRAINING TO DEFEND THE CANAL
AND WHICH, ACCORDING TO PEREZ, HAD NOW CONVINCED THE
PANAMANIAN THAT THE U.S. DID NOT PLAN TO YIELD ON THE
CANAL ISSUE.

6. PEREZ ALSO DESCRIBED IN DETAIL THE AMPHYTIONIC
CONGRESS CELEBRATION SCHEDULED FOR JUNE IN PANAMA WHICH
HE CLAIMED WOULD RESULT IN A DRAMATIC DEMAND FOR U.S.
ACTION ON THE CANAL BY ALL OF THE CHIEFS OF STATE OF
LATIN AMERICA.

7. CARL DESCRIBED PEREZ AS HIGHLY AGITATED AND
OBVIOUSLY VERY ANXIOUS TO GET THESE POINTS ACROSS
TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

8. CARL'S FIRST OF TWO COLUMNS ON CARACAS VISIT
APPEARED IN TODAY'S STAR. TEXT SENT SEPARATELY. THE
SECOND IS EXPECTED EARLY NEXT WEEK. KISSINGER

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